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Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendments above and the remarks following is respectfully requested.

Claims 21-40 are in this case. Claim 29 was withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as being drawn to a non-elected species. Claims 21-28 and 30-40 have been rejected under § 112, first paragraph. Claims 21, 23-25, 28, 34 and 40 have been rejected under § 102(b) or § 103(a). Claims 22, 26-27, 30-33, and 35-39 have been found to define over the prior art. Claims 21, 26-27, 30-32, 34-35, and 39 have been amended. Claims 2 and 40 have been canceled. New claims 41 and 42 have been added.

§ 112, First Paragraph Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 under § 112, first paragraph. The Examiner articulates that there is nothing in the disclosure to determine the metes and bounds of the terms “dispensing unit” and “releasing mechanism” of claim 21, lines 4-5.

The term “dispensing unit” has been stricken from the claims. Regarding “releasing mechanism”, the term does not appear explicitly in the disclosure. However, the function of the releasing mechanism is supported, inter alia by Figures 1, 2a and 2b, and by the text associated therewith.

Applicant has amended the Specification to include the term “releasing mechanism”, and to describe “releasing mechanism” in terms of the described components shown in Figures 1, 2a and 2b. The operation of the releasing

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mechanism is well described in the Specification, inter alia, page 9, line 18 – page 10, line 7. No new matter has been entered.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are now free from the deficiencies identified by the Examiner under § 112, first paragraph.

§ 102(b) and § 103(a) Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 21, 23-25, 34 and 40 under § 102(b) as being anticipated by Huang (U.S. Patent No. 5,903,930). The Examiner has rejected claim 28 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hall (U.S. Patent No. 2,320,128). The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has objected to claims 22, 26-27, 30-33, and 35-39 as being based on rejected base claims. The Examiner has noted that these claims define over the prior art, hence, these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Thus, while continuing to traverse the above-described rejections of the Examiner, Applicant has chosen, in order to expedite the prosecution, to amend the instant claims such that the allowable subject matter in dependent claims 22, 26, and 32 is now recited in independent form in amended claims 21, 26, and 32. All the limitations that were in previously presented base claim 21 have been included in claims 21, 26, and 32. Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 21, 26, and 32 are allowable in their present, amended form.

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Withdrawn Claim

Claim 29 had been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as being drawn to a non-elected species. Since claim 29 depends from amended claim 21, and since claim 21 is allowable and generic, Applicant submits that amended claim 29 should now be placed in allowance by the Examiner.

In view of the above amendments and remarks it is respectfully submitted that claims 21, 23-39, and 41-42 are in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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